

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 068152 TOSEC 030035
ORIGIN SCSE-00

INFO OCT-01 SS-15 ISO-00 EUR-12 SSO-00 CCO-00 /028 R

DRAFTED BY SCA:SCS:MMSIMONSON:GJL
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-----281815Z 011979 /42

O 281801Z MAR 77 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 068152 TOSEC 030035

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:CASC, EAIR

SUBJECT: TENERIFE AIR DISASTER - SITUATION REPORT 2

1. DEATH TOLL: KLM REPORTS 249 PERSONS KILLED ON KLM FLIGHT. PAN AM TO DATE INDICATED 332 KILLED, 66 SURVIVORS, MOST OF WHOM ARE INJURED. ALL INJURED SURVIVORS HOSPITALIZED AT EITHER TWO OR THREE HOSPITALS IN VICINITY OF SANTA CRUZ DE TENERIFE.
2. EMBASSY TEAM: THE TEAM FROM THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN MADRID, ARRIVED AT LAS PALMAS AT APPROXIMATELY 0145 EST. THEY WERE UNABLE TO SECURE HELICOPTER TRANSPORTATION TO TENERIFE AS ORIGINALLY PLANNED, DUE TO FOG, AND LEFT BY BOAT, ARRIVING AT TENERIFE APPROXIMATELY 0645 EST. THE TEAM WILL BE BASED AT HOTEL MENECY. THEY PLAN TO VISIT HOSPITALS FIRST, AND PROVIDE IDENTITIES OF SURVIVORS ASAP. THEY WILL COMMUNICATE THROUGH AMEMBASSY MADRID. THE WORKING GROUP IS IN CONSTANT COMMUNICATION WITH THE EMBASSY.

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3. NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD TEAM: THEY ARRIVED AT LAS PALMAS ONBOARD A PRIVATE PAN AM 707 ALONG WITH MEMBERS OF AN FBI IDENTIFICATION TEAM. THEY WERE THEN TRANSPORTED TO TENERIFE BY HELICOPTER.
4. MILITARY MEDICAL TEAM: THE ARMED FORCES MEDICAL TEAM ASSEMBLED AT ROTA WAS TO BE PICKED UP BY THE USAF C-130

TRANSPORT WHICH IS CARRYING 675 BODY BAGS FROM RHEIN-MAIN AFB, GERMANY. FLIGHT HAS BEEN DELAYED DUE TO WEATHER CONDITIONS AT ROTA. FLIGHT NOW EXPECTED TO ARRIVE ROTA AT 0730 EST, WITH AN ESTIMATED ARRIVAL TIME IN THE CANARY ISLANDS 1200 EST TODAY.

5. ON SITE: AMEMBASSY MADRID REPORTS THAT SITUATION AT TENERIFE AIRPORT STILL CHAOTIC. SOME BODIES STILL REMAIN ON TARMAC OR IN WRECKAGE. A MAKESHIFT MORGUE HAS BEEN SET UP IN THE LAGUNA CEMETERY, BUT ADDITIONAL SPACE, EQUIPPED WITH COLD STORAGE, IS STILL NEEDED. THE AIRPORT RUNWAY IS NOT ONLY LITTERED WITH WRECKAGE, BUT HAS BEEN BADLY DAMAGED BY THE CRASH, EXPLOSION, AND FIRE WHICH HAS BURNED OFF SECTIONS OF ASPHALT. THERE IS NO ESTIMATE YET AVAILABLE ON WHEN THE AIRPORT MAY REOPEN.

6. WORKING GROUP: THE GROUP IS CONTINUING TO HANDLE INQUIRIES FROM FRIENDS AND RELATIVES OF THE VICTIMS, PROVIDE REPORTS TO THE MEDIA, AND COORDINATE ACTIONS BETWEEN THE EMBASSY, THE NATIONAL MILITARY COMMAND CENTER AND OTHER INVOLVED AGENCIES.

7. THIS SITREP AS OF 0800 HOURS 3/28.
CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 28-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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